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1. It was learned that the East German Lufthansa had secretly been established on 1 April 1955. In the meantime, no details on the character of the company, its location or administrative set-up have as yet been published. Schoenefeld airfield allegedly had been turned over by the Soviets to the Main Department of Motor Traffic in the Ministry for Transportation. Only Il-12s, each with a weight of 13 tons and a capacity for 21 passengers, will probably be employed because the runway at Schoenefeld airfield is not suitable for heavier aircraft. The improvement of the runway would cost about 40 million eastmarks. Air traffic was allegedly planned to begin on the Berlin-Leipzig and Berlin-Stralsund routes. No information was available if the East German Lufthansa would later take up air traffic with the capitals of the Eastern Bloc Countries. It was assumed that some time would elapse before air traffic within the GDR could start.
2. It was learned that Arthur Pieck would become the director of the East German Lufthansa on 1 June 1955.

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Comment. The information that the ⁴dispensee section of Schoenefeld airfield was turned over to the East German Lufthansa in early May 1955 has meanwhile been confirmed. Arthur Pieck, son of the president of the GDR Wilhelm Pieck, was previously employed in the Rear Estate Department of the Bureau of the Council of Ministers. He is reported for the first time as future director of civil aviation in the GDR. This information appears to be true.

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